

The Council assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Monday the 13th March 1922, the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR AVargal, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in alphabetical order, specify the serial numbers of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Mappilla elementary schools under new scale of teaching grants.

1352 Q.—Mr. K. KUNHAMMAD KOYA SAHIB: Will the Hon'ble the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the introduction of the new scale of teaching grants, which gives no grant in respect of average attendance of pupils, has adversely affected the aided elementary Mappilla schools;

(b) what steps have been taken to safeguard the interests of Mappilla schools so that they may not suffer under the new scale, and how far such steps, if any, have been carried out by the Education Department; and

(c) how many appeals have reached the Director of Public Instruction from the managers of Mappilla schools, representing their grievances in connexion with the smallness of grants under the new system, and what action the Director has taken for the redress of such grievances?

A.—(a) The scale of teaching grants approved in September 1919 adversely affects girls' schools and schools intended for or chiefly attended by backward classes including Mappillas, particularly if they are staffed by untrained teachers.

(b) In 1919 and 1920 the Director of Public Instruction issued instructions to inspecting officers to see that aided elementary schools for Panchamas and girls and schools attended chiefly by backward classes or castes including Mappillas were given liberal treatment under article 16 of the Grant-in-Aid Code and further to see that the grants assigned in 1919-20 and 1920-21 were not less than the grants admissible under the rules formerly in force. Grants-in-aid to elementary schools are now made by District Educational Councils, and the Inspector of Schools, Malabar, reported to the Director of Public Instruction that following the instructions on the matter issued in previous years the assignments recommended to the District Educational Councils for schools of this class for 1921-22 were so adjusted as not to be less than what the schools would have obtained under the old rules.

(c) No appeals have reached the Director of Public Instruction.